POCKET GUIDE TO

ITALIAN CITIES

WAR DEPT. OCT. 1944

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POCKET GUIDE TO
ITALIAN CITIES

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ATTENTION

About the only thing in this booklet that can be guaranteed is the terrain. The rest of it is up to the fortunes or misfortunes of war. Many of the towns and cities described here have been bombed and shelled by us as we approached, and shelled by the enemy as he retreated. And many of them will still show the marks of the destruction visited upon them when these lands were being conquered and occupied by the Germans.

The short historical notes and city plans concerning most of the towns are correct as of the outbreak of the war. But the changes of war were still happening in many places when this pocket guide went to press.

You may find that art treasures described and located in these pages have been looted or destroyed, and it may be years before those that can be restored are sights to see again. On the other hand, some of them, by a stroke of good fortune, may be left intact, and you will be able to enjoy them.

And another thing: if some of these towns should be declared

off limits, you'll bypass them, of course. Perhaps later, they may be open to you.

Food and drink are discussed here, so that as times gradually return to normal, you may be guided in the tastes and customs of the country. But be sure that you are not encouraging a black market or bringing hardship to the native civilian population if you take advantage of what the town or region has to offer. You will receive direction from the proper authority in this matter.

Anyhow, so far as your military duties permit, see as much as you can. You've got a great chance to do now, major expenses paid, what would cost you a lot of your own money after the war. Take advantage of it.

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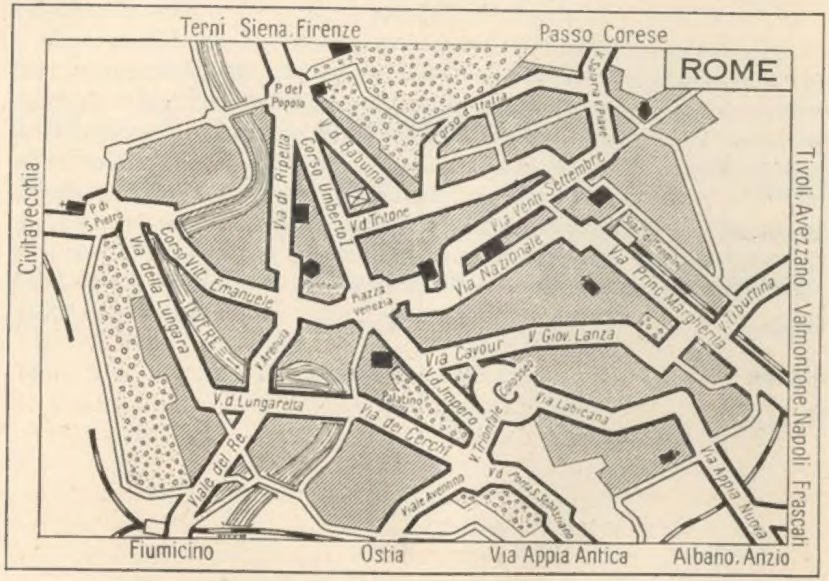

ROME

Rome is almost as old as the seven hills upon which the city was built. According to the archeologists, people first began settling in the district some time around the year 1000 B. C. They were shepherds and farmers, and according to the myth, the city was founded by Romulus, a son of Mars, who was the God of War, and his brother, Remus. Romulus and Remus, according to the legend, were put in a trough and thrown into the Tiber River by their great-uncle. They came aground in a marsh and were fed by a she-wolf and a woodpecker. The woodpecker gave them their solid foods. Then, when they grew up they organized all the shepherds in the territory and founded the city on the spot where they came aground in the Tiber. That's the story, but scholars say it's a phoney, because there are a lot of stories like that which were told by the earlier Romans.

The seven hills upon which the city was first built are the Capitoline, Palatine, Aventine, Quirinal, Viminal, Esquiline, and Caelius. The hills were never very high, and during the course of years the tops of the hills were cut down and valleys

built up. Now the city stretches over nine or more hills. VATICAN HILL is one of the heights added to the city in its growth.

For a number of reasons, Rome is one of the most important of the world's capitals. With the exception of Athens, it is the oldest city in Europe serving as a capital. It was the center of the old Roman Empire, which was the greatest power in the ancient world. And since, soon after the birth of Christianity, it has been the capital of Christendom. The city of Rome for thousands of years has influenced the thought, art, and culture of the world. There was, of course, a little set-back in thinking, art, and culture under Il Duce.

There have been rumors recently that a great deal of Rome's art was carted off by Mussolini's greedy ally, especially the nudes.

The first sights generally visited by travellers to Rome are the CAPITOLINE buildings, the COLOSSEUM, the PANTHEON, the BATHS OF CARACALLA, the FORUM, the walls and gates of the ancient city, and the CATACOMBS.

On the Capitoline Hill was the TEMPLE OF JUPITER and the temples of other and lesser deities. There the seeresses made their predictions about how important events would end, and foretold the future in times of crisis.

The COLOSSEUM, which was finished in the year 80 A. D., was an amphitheatre, of oval shape. It enclosed an open space, or arena, and was 3 stories high with an upper gallery. It seated from 40,000 to 50,000 persons. Shows and circuses often lasting for 100 days were held there, and among the spectacles which the Romans saw there were the gladiatorial combats in which trained slaves battled each other to the death. You've seen a lot of ruins in Italy; the Colosseum, however, wasn't wrecked by Long Toms. It got that way through the passage of time. It's supposed to be best to see the Colosseum at night, by the light of the full moon.

The BATHS OF CARACALLA are named after the Roman Emperor who built them. He's got a couple of other things to make him famous. He killed his brother so he could rule alone, and then, to make certain that none of his brother's friends harbored any ill feelings, he killed 20,000 of them.

The ROMAN FORUM was the large open space between the Palatine and Capitoline Hills. It was there that large public meetings and games were held. There were galleries for spectators over the porticoes, and the Forum also had shops of various sorts. Temples and courts were scattered about the Forum, and the Senate building was there also. The famous triumphal proces-

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sions of the Roman Generals and Emperors who returned from their widespread conquests passed along a winding street called the SACRED WAY, which ran through the Forum. In the Forum there is a piece of masonry which is said to mark the center of Rome. It is called the Umbilicus Romae, or the belly-button of Rome, and the base of the monument is still preserved. There are remains of other ancient Roman structures in the Forum. Eight granite columns are all that are left of the TEMPLE OF SATURN, who was the god of the sowing of seed. The temple was also used as a treasury. Also in the Forum are some of the remains of the columns and ornamentation of the TEMPLE OF VESTA, the oldest in Rome, and of the house of the Vestal Virgins. Vesta was the goddess of the hearth and the home, and the Vestal Virgins were consecrated to her worship. Part of the Rostra, from which spoke the famous Roman orators, including Cicero, is still in the Forum.

There are hundreds of churches in Rome, many of them famous not only for their religious and historical significance, but also for their architectural beauty and the art treasures which they contain. The two most famous churches are ST. JOHN LATERAN,

or SAN GIOVANNI IN LATERAN, as the Italians know it, and ST. PETER'S.

The Church of St. John Lateran is the seat of the Bishop of Rome, who is the Pope. It is said to date from the year 324, but was twice rebuilt, once after an earthquake and again after a fire. It has been altered and modernized several times.

ST. PETER'S is the largest church in Rome. The building is about 500 feet high, and covers about six acres. The nave is 648 feet long, 93 feet wide, and 143 feet high. The transept is 449 feet long. The magnificent dome is the work of Michaelangelo, and it is 448 feet above the street. St. Peter's is not actually in Rome, but in Vatican City, which is an independent city-state governed by the Pope.

VATICAN CITY is divided from Rome by its walls. It takes in 109 acres. In its grounds are a Pontifical Palace of 1,000 rooms, an observatory, a post office, a railway station, a power plant and radio station, and printing presses for Vatican City's own newspapers. The Vatican also coins its own money and prints its own postage stamps. There is a mosaic factory within the walls of the city where old works of art are reproduced in colored glass-paste of which there are said to be more than 20,000 different shades.

The Vatican has its own police force, and a body of men called the Swiss Guards, made up of citizens of Switzerland, who acts as the Pope's escort. The Swiss Guard was founded by Julius Second, and wear a uniform of blue, red, and yellow which was designed by Michaelangelo.

Many of the greatest art works in the world are in the Vatican Palace. There are the Museum of Sculpture, large picture galleries, and a library which contains priceless manuscripts and books in many languages, including 700,000 printed works in Latin. All through the Palace are seen Papal guards and chamberlains in their colorful uniforms. The SISTINE CHAPEL, which is the Pope's private chapel, was built in 1473. In it are paintings by such famous Italian painters as Perugino, Botticelli and Ghirlandao. The greatest and most famous work of art in the Sistine Chapel, however, is the great ceiling and the "Last Judgment," by Michaelangelo.

The CATACOMBS OF ROME were orginally burial places. Later, when the early Christians were persecuted, they literally went underground into the Catacombs, and lived and worshiped there. Pilgrims and visitors to Rome generally visit SAN CALLISTO, the best-known of the Catacombs, where they are lighted through the

underground chambers and corridors by candles. Sometime around the beginning of the seventh century, thousands of the relics of the Christian martyrs were taken out of the Catacombs and removed to the Pantheon.

The PANTHEON was the building in which all the Roman gods were worshiped. The building is remarkable for its well-preserved state, and because it has been used continuously as a church for more than 2,000 years. Besides the worship of the gods, it was also used to mark the victory of Augustus over Mark Anthony, at Actium, in 31 B. C. It was closed as a temple of the gods about the year 390. Then, in the year 609, it was consecrated as a Christian church. It is an outstanding example of Roman architecture and is also considered a symbol of the religious life of Rome, in its change from pagan worship to Christianity.

All over the city of Rome are fountains, many of them the work of famous artists. The first fountains of the city were built at the order of Agrippa, the son-in-law and advisor to Emperor Augustus. He was also the commander in chief of the Roman Navy. Agrippa gave the city more than 200 fountains and built at his own expense 2 aqueducts and 130 reservoirs. Many of the

fountains were destroyed by invaders, but they were restored in later years by the Popes of the Renaissance.

One of the most famous of the fountains in Rome is the PAULINE FOUNTAIN. It throws five powerful jets of water from underneath five arches.

You probably won't have the 14 to 16 days which people who know Rome say is the minimum period in which the sights of Rome can be seen hastily. What would probably be a good idea, then, is first to make a dash around the city to get a quick look at it and then later select the places which you would like to inspect more carefully and leisurely when and if you have the time.

In addition to the places we have described, here are some other places of interest in Rome. The PINCIO, which used to belong to a famous Roman family after whom it was named, was the first public park in the city. In the old days a lady by the name of Messalina, who was the wife of Claudius, a Roman Emperor, used to throw some pretty wild parties there. The PALAZZO VENEZIA is one place you've probably seen many times in the news reels back home. That's the place from whose balcony Mussolini made his boasting speeches to the applause of his black-shirted Fascists and the laughter of the rest of the world. Mussolini appropriated it as

his own private office, but it is now a museum again. Opposite the Palazzo Venezia is the national monument to Victor Emanuel II.

The VILLA BORGHESE, next to the Pincio, is the favorite park of the Romans, and, since you are in Rome, it might not be a bad idea to do as the Romans do and spend some time there. One of the most important art galleries in the city is there, and it also has a zoo.

There are civil and religious festivals in Rome all through the year. One of the most important festivals is celebrated on April 21. That's when Rome was supposed to have been founded, but you know—Rome wasn't built in a day. There used to be another big festival in October, to mark the day when Mussolini marched into Rome with his hoodlums, but that date, thanks to you, isn't going to be celebrated any more.

For entertainment in the evening, there are theaters, movie houses, and concert halls. Among the theaters are the Royal Opera House, on the Via Viminale; the Argentina, on the Via di Torre Argentina; the Valle, on the Via del Teatro Valle; and others. The movies are all around town. Here are some of the concert halls: the Augusteo, on Via dei Pontefici; Salla Bach, Via Gregoriana; and the Sala Clementi, on Via dell'Olmata.

Every district in Italy has its local wine, and it would be sensible to drink that wine because it is generally the most abundant and the cheapest. Any recommendation for a particular type of wine or a vintage year would be arbitrary, because it is better to suit your own taste. And if you like to drink a sweet wine with meat, don't let it bother you.

On some of the streets in the center of Rome, pedestrians are supposed to keep to the left. There are busses and streetcars all over town or, anyway, there used to be. In the center of town, which, oddly, is called the "circolare interna," which means "the inside circle, or center of town," is served only by busses, except for a few streets near the Central Station. Fares are generally priced according to the length of the trip. Busses and streetcars which run in the city have numbers over 100, or two letters of the alphabet; busses that run into the suburbs have numbers over 200. There are bus lines running into the outlying districts of Rome, or the provinces. Some of these bus lines used to run all year 'round, but the others ran only according to various seasons.

THE SURROUNDINGS OF ROME

The districts around Rome are full of places of historical in-

terest and beauty. There are beaches which are bordered by pine woods, small towns and villages where it should be possible to see how Italians live. There are medieval towns with historic palaces, castles, and churches, mineral springs and health resorts which for thousands of years have been healing the sick in their waters, and there are excavations of ancient Roman cities and innumerable monuments which were erected to mark the triumphs of the ancients.

Here are some of the shore resorts near Rome. CIVITAVECCHIA is a port of communication with Sardinia. It has good hotels and bath houses, and, although it is a little more than 40 miles from Rome, it attracts large numbers of people from the city because there is—or was—an excellent highway running to Civitavecchia and there is—or was—good railway service because it is a station on the Rome-Pisa-Genoa-Turin line.

South of Civitavecchia are two small towns named SANTA MARINELLA and LADISPOLI, which are seaside resorts and crowded with people from Rome during the summer season.

Not far from Ladispoli is FREGENE, which is said to be one of the most beautiful beaches of the Latium, which is the ancient name for this portion of central Italy. And to the south of

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Fregene are Fiumicino and Lido di Roma, which is about 18 miles from Rome. Lido di Roma has a good sandy beach, and there is a park and a pine forest there. There is train and bus service to this resort. At the mouth of the Tiber River is the Isola Sacra and nearby are the ruins of Ostia Antica, which was a thriving Roman town. Anzio, which you may have known as a hell-hole, was a resort town and an important port before the war. It's about 36 miles from Rome and is reached by road or train which takes about an hour. Anzio has the ruins of a villa, or country home which is supposed to have been built by Nero, and a pine wood. Nettuno, another peace-time resort which you may have passed through on your way into Italy, is not far from Anzio. One of the sights of that place is a castle which was built for Alexander VI.

On another route out of Rome, by the Via Appia, which is the oldest of the ancient Roman highways, and then the road which runs from Cisterna to Littoria, there is the seashore resort of Terracina, and then Gaeta and Formia. The ruins of the ancient city of Tusculum is a comparatively short walk from the town of Frascati, which used to have good hotels and restaurants. Frascati is famous for its wines, and it has a number of beautiful

villas. On the way to Frascati from Rome, by way of the Via Appia Nuovo and the Via Tuscalona the remains of the Ancient Roman Acqueducts can be seen.

From Frascati to Rocca di Papa there is a road which leads to a route to the top of Monte Cavo, which is 3,113 feet above sea-level from which the whole of the beautiful Roman Campagna can be seen. Then, from Rocca di Papa there is a route to Albano and Castelgandolfo, which is a little town on the lake of Albano where the Pope has his summer residence. The Via dei Laghi leads to the Lake of Nemi, where Roman galleys were salvaged and which can be seen there. To the south is Velletri, which is an important wine-producing center, and which has a number of works of art. On the way back to Rome, there are the towns of Marino and Grottaferrata. At the latter place is a monastery called the "Abbazia," of the Basilian monks of the Greek-Catholic Church. The monastery was founded in the year 1002 by St. Nilus, who was from the island of Calabria. The monastery was built over the ruins of a Roman villa which is said to have belonged to the orator Cicero.

In the direction of Genzano and Cisterna on the Via Appia is the area which was reclaimed from the Pontine Marshes.

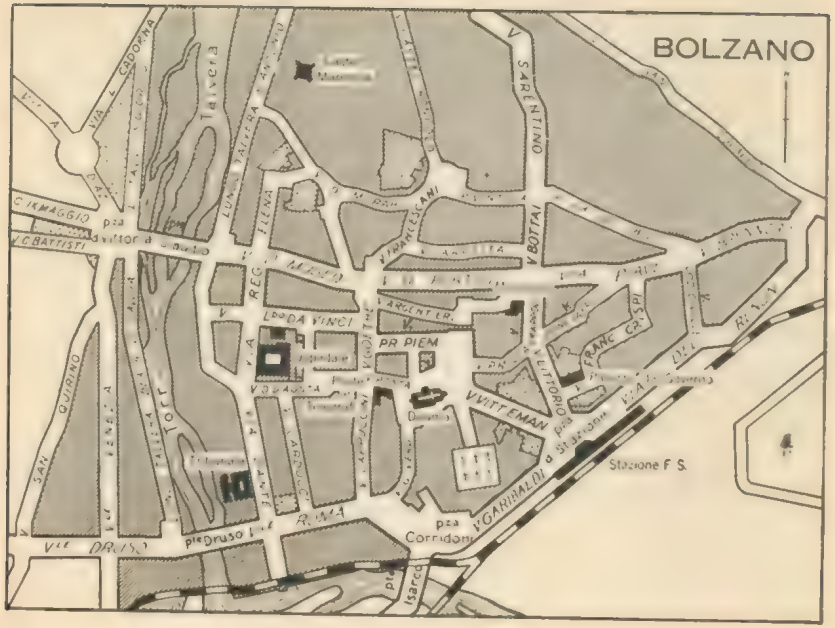
Frosinone, which is an important center, on the top of a hill from which a view of the surrounding plain and the hills and mountains of the area can be seen, can be reached by railroad or by way of the Via Prenestina or the Via Casilina. The Via Prenestina goes through the towns of Palestrina, Genazzano, Fiuggi, and Alatri. The Via Casilina goes through Colonna, Valmontone, Ferentino, and the towns of Artena and Anagni are a little way off the main road.

Fiuggi, which is 2,000 feet above sea level, is important because its waters are supposed to be good for such varied ailments as kidney trouble and neuralgia and neurasthenia. There are a number of hotels and boarding houses at Fiuggi. The town of Ferentino has remains of pre-Roman and Roman buildings, and medieval houses and churches. There are a number of art works in Valmontone, and at Anagni there are old Roman buildings, among which is the Cathedral, and there are also some medieval buildings. And at Palestrina and Genazzano are Roman constructions.

The town of Tivoli is one of the places tourists to Rome are told to visit. The town is in the Aniene Valley, and there are the Aniene River waterfalls, the Temple of Vesta, and the Villa

d'Este, which is famous for its beauty. There is a very good view of the Roman campagna from Tivoli. On the way to the town, by the Via Tiburtina, there are Acque Albule, which has swimming pools as well as sulphur baths, and the Tomb of the Plauti, which is a tower dating from the time of Augustus. Two miles from that place is Hadrian's Villa, which was the largest and most luxurious villa in the Roman Empire.

All the regional forms of Italian cookery are available in Rome. Here are some of the typical Italian dishes which it may be possible to find in the city's restaurants, wine shops, and other eating places. Minestrone is a favorite soup with the Italians. It is a thick vegetable soup. There are various forms of minestrone, one of them called minestra asciutta, which has macaroni added to it, and another has rice and other ingredients. In many cases, what goes into the soup depends on the whim of the cook, but the result is usually very satisfying. In fact, some of the Italian soups are so filling and nourishing because of the many ingredients in them, that Italians often make a complete meal of a plate of soup and bread.



BOLZANO

"In a wide open valley, protected from the wind and dominated by the legendary Catinaccio, wonderfully situated, surrounded by fruitful vineyards and orchards, lies Bolzano, renowned centre for a prolonged sojourn." That's what the travel folder says—and unless there's a lot of destructive fighting there, which cannot be predicted as this booklet goes to press, Bolzano is all of that. It is a picturesquely situated town in the Tyrol—rich in history—colorful and full of old art.

Bolzano is the Italian gateway to the Brenner Pass, on the most direct road between Rome and Berlin, and was a frequent meeting place of the former European Axis partners.

The city was Austrian until the close of the first World War when the Italian frontier was moved about 100 miles north, giving Italy the large Teutonic population of South Tyrol. Bolzano's Austrian name was *Bozen*. The majority of its inhabitants still speak German and most of the city retains a Germanic architectural appearance.

The story of Bolzano goes way back. It was first mentioned

in 379 A. D. by the Roman Emperor Gratian who called it "Bauxare." Three hundred years later it was mentioned again by an ancient historian who called it "Bauzanum." Still later it was mentioned as "Potzen," and then "Botzen." The inhabitants pronounce it "Pozen" but it's "Bolzano" to you.

If all this seems confusing it is less so than Bolzano's history. The city, located as it is in the Brenner Pass, got mixed up in so many battles and campaigns, and resounded to the hoof beats of so many ancient and medieval warriors that it is a wise native who knows his own ancestors.

Bloody battles mark its history. One story has it that when the Roman Augustus' stepson fought it out at Bolzano with the local warriors, the women of the region pitched in too and when they ran out of ammunition threw their children in the faces of the Roman soldiers.

One of Bolzano's main features are the DOLOMITES. We have something like them in our own West. These colossal pinnacles of serrated rock formed by the erosive action of centuries have been given the collective name of "The Rose Garden." At dawn and dusk they take on red and purple hues like those seen. in our desert country.

If you like mountain climbing you might take a whirl at these pinnacles, but don't try it unless you know your stuff.

Also, don't visit Bolzano in the summer if you can do it some other time. It's hot as the hinges of Hades. At that time of year, Bolzanians who can get away go to the RITTEN, a lofty plateau 3,000 feet above the broiling town. You used to be able to reach this spot by a little electric railway.

There are a number of interesting castles and churches, mostly in ruins in and around Bolzano. SCHLOSS RUNKELSTEIN, with its 14th century frescoes, is probably the one that should least be missed.

You'll see a lot of these old castles if you take the trip from Bolzano to MERAN. Nearly every crag and peak is topped with one.

If you land in Bolzano in the winter and like skiing and tobogganing you're in luck. In the immediate neighborhood of Bolzano there are plenty of heights and excellent ski-sport.

Also handy were tennis courts, riding schools, a golf course and pigeon and trap shooting facilities.

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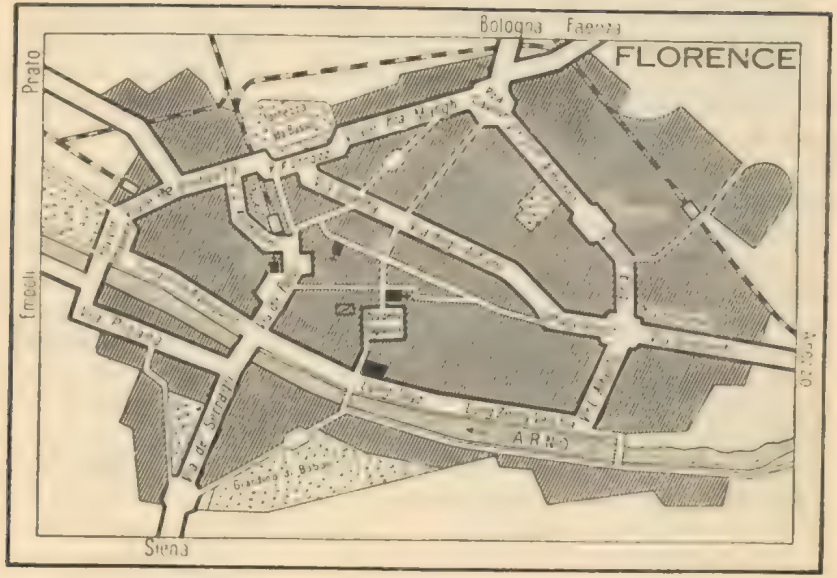

FLORENCE

FLORENCE lies along both banks of the ARNO 42 miles east of Pisa and 140 miles northwest of Rome, as the crow flies. If all the signs say "Firenze," don't give up—that's Italian for Florence. With a pre-war population of 325,000, Florence was the seventh city of Italy in size, but as a center of historical and artistic interest it is second only to Rome. Almost every building in the old part of the city has some claim to recognition as a Renaissance shrine. Its impressive collection of churches, palaces, museums, art galleries, gardens, bridges, fountains, and squares can keep even the most tireless sightseer busy for many days.

Blood and Thunder

Unlike such neighboring Tuscan towns as Volterra, Arezzo, and Cortona, Florence had its heyday in the Middle Ages rather than in ancient times. At the crossroads of important trade routes from Rome to Milan and across the Alps to the rest of Europe, and from Pisa to Bologna and Venice, Florence became the commercial center of Italy in medieval times. Wool, silk, wood, and

agriculture were the bases of industries that created one of the richest communities in Europe. The gold florin of Florence became Europe's coinage standard. Carrying off Florentine citizens by force was a flourishing business at one time, because the kidnapers demanded and collected bigger ransoms for their victims than they were ever able to extract from the good people of other, less wealthy cities.

The free City-State was ruled by its most affluent merchants. Hand in hand with the commercial prosperity of the twelfth to the fifteenth centuries went political ructions and fantastic family feuds. Dark deeds were done; heads rolled. Poisonings, burnings at the stake, duels, even mortal stabbings at high mass in the cathedral were not uncommon.

Violent as it was, this combination of opulence and intrigue was the atmosphere in Florence that produced not only the wealthy Medici (from whose family coat of arms the three-ball pawnbrokers' emblem was adopted), but also the genius of a long, brilliant list of artists, poets, and philosophers.

Another word about the Medici: This family of bankers who controlled financial matters all over Europe first became established early in the fourteenth century. By the middle of the

fifteenth century they were extremely powerful. Lorenzo de' Medici ruled from 1470 to 1492. Although an absolute tyrant, Lorenzo the Magnificent, as he was called, grouped around himself the greatest artists and scholars of the age. Without his patronage they would never have had the freedom or the means to produce their immortal works.

Landmarks

One way to see Florence would be to start anywhere and keep going in any direction, looking at everything. There is so much to see, and so much to know about each building and its meaning in history, that any attempt at complete coverage would run into many volumes.

As good a place as any to start from is the Piazza della Signoria (Senate Square). In the days of the Florentine Republic, this square was the center of the political and social life of Florence.

The dominating feature of the Piazza della Signoria is the stern tower of the Palazzo Vecchio, which can be seen from almost everywhere in Florence. The Palazzo Vecchio was begun in the year 1298 and was built for the double purpose of a residence for the ruler and a town hall. Its fortresslike appearance, made neces-

sary by the dangerous times during which it was built, gives no indication of the magnificence of its interior. The Great Hall, or Sala dei Cinquecento, contains huge frescoes by Grigorio Vasari and his pupils showing incidents of the wars waged by the Florentines against the Pisans and the people of Leghorn and Siena. Many of the smaller apartments are even more elaborate and were actually lived in by members of the Medici family. In the tower of the Palace Savonarola, the famous Dominican Prior of the Monastery of San Marco, was confined for 6 weeks before his execution in 1498. The year before, Savonarola, in protest against the immorality and wickedness of the city, had lighted a huge bonfire of masquerade costumes, cosmetics, musical instruments, dice boxes, books and paintings of nude females right in the middle of the Piazza della Signoria. For this, he met his death in the inimitable manner of the period. Already broken on the rack, he was hauled out into the same Piazza, hanged, and then burned by a large bonfire which was lighted under his gibbet.

The whole Piazza is in effect an outdoor museum. Bartolomeo Ammannati's Fountain of Neptune, just outside the Palazzo Vecchio, was erected in 1575. Michelangelo's David and Donatello's

Judith and Holofernes flank the main entrance to the Palazzo Vecchio.

The Loggia dei Lanzi (Porch of the Lancers), originally built (in 1376–83) as a place of assembly for the discussion of political or commercial matters in rainy weather, is directly opposite the main entrance to the Palazzo Vecchio. It contains many wonderful groups of statuary, including The Rape of the Sabines and Hercules Slaying the Centaur Nessus, by Giambologna; Menelaus with the Body of Patrocles, dating back to ancient Rome; the bronze Perseus with the Head of Medusa, cast in 1553 by the famous Benvenuto Cellini.

If you go toward the Arno down the street which enters the Piazza della Signoria between the Palazzo Vecchio and the Loggia dei Lanzi, you will find yourself in the court of the Palazzo degli Uffizi (Palace of the Offices). This palace was erected by order of the Grand Duke Cosimo I to house the government offices. The building was begun in 1560, completed in 1574. It now contains the National Library, the State Archives, and on the upper floor, one of the world's most famous art galleries. This gallery originated with the Medici collections, to which numerous additions have been made down to the most recent times.

Beginning with a collection of early Florentine and Sienese altar pieces, it gradually leads on to the early fifteenth century: Fra Filippo Lippi, Verrocchio, Pollaiuolo, Lorenzo di Credi, and Ghirlandaio, culminating with the groups of Florentine masters—Botticelli, Filippino Lippi, and Andrea del Sarto. The Umbrian and Venetian painters as well as the best of non-Italian masters are also well represented. The gallery also contains valuable tapestries and a large collection of antique marble sculptures.

From the Uffizi to the Palazzo Pitti, which contains another of the world's most priceless collections of art, there is a corridor which crosses the Arno by means of the Ponte Vecchio—one of the most frequently photographed, sketched, and etched bridges in existence. This old bridge is no mere structure for getting from one side of the river to the other, but a marketplace and a cluster of workshops as well. Open to the sky along the middle of its passageway, the bridge is lined on both sides by a clutter of houses which have been for hundreds of years the homes of goldsmiths and jewelers.

Part of the bridge's foundation has existed since the days of the Roman Empire, but most of the main structure was built in the fourteenth century. The corridor passes over the tops of the

bridge-supported houses on the upstream side. On its walls hang pictures, as they do in the galleries it connects.

The Pitti Palace was begun in 1440 by Luca Pitti, a wealthy citizen of Florence, who at that date was one of the chief rivals of the Medici. After the failure of the conspiracy against Piero de Medici in 1466, Luca lost his power and influence, and the building remain unfinished until it was sold to the Medici Grand Dukes who gradually completed it and made it their residence. The palace was occupied by the King of Italy when Florence was the capital of the kingdom (1865–71).

The Pitti Gallery, located in the left wing of the palace, contains about 500 paintings, most of which are masterpieces by the greatest names in the history of art. This priceless collection was formerly the property of the Medici, who for hundreds of years devoted much time and money to it.

The Boboli Gardens, extending up the hillside behind the palace, were planned in the sixteenth century. Cypresses, laurels, oleanders, flowers, marble fountains, and artificial lakes are combined and arranged to make one of the most perfect examples of formal landscaping ever devised.

Possibly the best general view of Florence is to be had from the

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Piazzale Michelangelo, on the south bank of the Arno, just east of the Boboli Gardens. The piazzale itself isn't much, but is well worth the trip up for the view, which will help you orient yourself. From this elevated spot, nearly all of the prominent buildings and churches of Florence are visible.

Starting again from the Piazza della Signoria, and going away from the river (north) along the Via dei Calzaioli (Street of the Stocking-makers), one of the busiest thoroughfares in Florence, you will find much of interest. To the left stands Or San Michele, a massive three-storied building built in 1284–91, and rebuilt in 1337–1404. On the ground floor there is a small chapel, the upper story serving as a granary until 1569 and afterward as a place where official records were filed until 1886. The statuary and carvings are of various periods, all of considerable significance in the history of art.

Between Or San Michele and the Via Calimara and connected to the former by an archway with steps is the Torre dell'Arte della Lana, the towerlike guild hall of the wool weavers. The building was erected in 1308. Since then it has been rebuilt and restored several times. It now contains the lecture hall of the Dante Society.

The Via dei Calzaioli ends at the Piazza del Duomo (Cathedral Square), which contains several interesting buildings. Immediately to the right, at the corner, stands the chapel of the Misericordia, belonging to the charitable fraternity founded in the thirteenth century. The members of this society are pledged at a moment's notice, no matter what they happen to be doing, to assist in any charitable work of necessity. For the most part, they dispatch ambulances to the scenes of accidents and perform the last offices for the dead in poorer districts. You may see some of the brothers in their black robes and hoods. Their rather grotesque costumes were designed to protect them from infection during the great plague in the latter part of the fifteenth century, when they were the only organized group who did anything about removing the gruesome heaps of disease-ridden corpses from the streets of Florence.

Opposite the oratory of the Misericordia is the Bigallo, built in 1352–58. Here on this small Gothic porch, another charitable society exhibited foundlings to the public in hopes that they would be adopted by sympathetic passers-by.

In the middle of the Piazza del Duomo stands the Baptistry or San Giovanni Battista. It is an eight-sided structure built

on the remains of an ancient Roman building. Its present form dates from a rebuilding in the 11th century. The choir is a conversion of the ancient round apse. The pillars on the exterior angles were added in 1293. The three world famous bronze doors were inserted in the 14th and 15th centuries. The south door is by Andrea Pisano (1330–36) and portrays the life of John the Baptist and the eight cardinal virtues. The north door was made in 1403–24 by Lorenzo Ghiberti, who won a contest for the privilege. The reliefs represent in 28 sections the history of Christ. The east door, facing the cathedral, also by Lorenzo Ghiberti (1425–1452), was considered by Michelangelo to be worthy of forming the entrance to Paradise. It represents 10 scenes from the Old Testament. The interior of the Baptistry is a beautiful combination of granite, marble, mosaic, and sculpture, every inch of which has its fascinating history.

The Cathedral, Il Duomo, or Santa Maria del Fiore, so called (after 1412) from the lily which appears on the coat-of-arms of Florence, was begun in 1296 on the site of the earlier church of St. Reparata. Its architect, Arnolfo di Cambio, was ordered "to raise the loftiest, most sumptuous, and most magnificent edifice that human invention could devise, or human labor execute."

After Arnolfo's death in 1301 the operations were successively directed by Giotto (1334–37), Andrea Pisano (1337–49), Francesco Talenti (1351–69), and other architects. In 1417, a committee of architects and engineers was called in to advise how best to construct a dome. A competition took place, resulting in the appointment of Filippo Brunelleschi. The construction of the gigantic dome took fourteen years. The church was finally consecrated in 1436. This building, larger than all previous churches built in Italy, covers an area of 84,000 square feet. The height of the dome is 350 feet.

The interior of the Cathedral is most impressive, both to the eye and to the imagination. Here the famous Savonarola held forth against the lust and wickedness of the Florentines. Here took place the attempt against the life of Lorenzo the Magnificent, on Sunday morning of the 26th of April 1478. With the connivance of Pope Sixtus IV and a crowd of vicious rivals of the Medici, a group of hired assassins fell on Giuliano de' Medici with their knives at the very moment of the elevation of the Host. Simultaneously, Lorenzo was attacked by two priests. While his brother sank dying to the mosaic floor, bleeding from 19 stab wounds,

Lorenzo with great coolness escaped through the crowd to the old sacristy, slamming the heavy bronze doors behind him.

The Campanile (bell tower) adjoins the Cathedral on the south side. The tower was designed by Giotto. The foundation stone was laid with great ceremony in 1334. The Campanile is 276 feet high and entirely covered with colored marble, delicate carving, a series of statues and reliefs. It is considered one of the most beautiful Gothic belfries in Italy.

Opposite the choir of the Cathedral is the Museo dell' Opera di Santa Maria del Fiore (Cathedral Museum) which contains chiefly works of art from the Cathedral and the Baptistry.

Santa Croce

Starting out once more from the Piazza della Signoria, and following the Via dei Gondi to the east, you will come to another street called the Borgo dei Greci, which proceeds in the same general direction to the Piazza Santa Croce (Holy Cross). The dominating feature here is the Church of Santa Croce which you will see at the far end of the piazza as you enter. This is the oldest and finest of all the churches belonging to the Mendicant Orders. Santa Croce is the Westminster Abbey of Florence. Here lie buried

some of the greatest Italians—Michelangelo, Machiavelli, Galileo, Ghiberti, among many other illustrious Italians.

The building was begun in 1294 by Arnolfo di Cambio, for the Franciscans. It was completed in 1442 with the exception of the front face which is modern. The interior is very magnificent, containing important frescoes by Giotto, huge baroque altars, and the sculptured tombs of great Italians.

Adjoining the church to the south is the Cappella dei Pazzi, one of the finest creations of Renaissance architecture. This was the private chapel of the Pazzi family, one of the more serious rivals of the Medici. Brunelleschi, Donatello, and Luca della Robbia all lent their talents to the creation of this masterpiece.

If you have time, the Museo dell'Opera di Santa Croce is also worth a visit. It's just next to the church and contains several interesting works of art.

More

When once started on the subject of what's worth seeing in Florence, it's hard to stop, but there are quite a few places not yet mentioned that are very much worth your time. Their names and brief descriptions follow:

Spedale degli Innocenti (Foundling Hospital). On the southeast side of the Piazza dell' Annunziata. Reached from the Piazza del Duomo by going northeast on the Via de' Servi. Front ornamented by the famous medallions of infants in swaddling clothes—the blue and white glazed terra cotta *bambini* of Andrea della Robbia. You'll recognize them at once, because they have been more widely reproduced in the states than any other example of Florentine art of the Renaissance.

Bargello, or Palazzo del Podesta. On the Via del Proconsolo. Reached from the Piazza della Signoria by way of the Via dei Gondi. Turn left at the first corner; the building is on the right-hand side of the street just past the Piazza San Firenze. Begun in 1255 and from 1261 the residence of the Chief Magistrate of Florence. After 1574, served as prison and office of the Chief of Police (called the Bargello). Now houses the Museo Nazionale, illustrative of the medieval and modern history of Italian culture and art, and containing the most important collection of Florentine Renaissance sculpture, weapons of the Medici, and many fine examples of tapestry and fabrics.

Palazzo Medici—Riccardi. On the Via Cavour. Reached

from the Piazza del Duomo by going northeast on the Via dei Martelli from the Baptistry. Built in 1444–52. Lorenzo the Magnificent lived here and here his sons were born. Now houses the Medici Museum, containing a number of souvenirs of the Medici family. Most interesting are the frescoes by Benozzo Gozzoli, painted about 1459–63, representing the journey of the Wise Men to Bethlehem, but flatteringly including portraits of the Medici.

Museo di San Marco. Two blocks up the Via Cavour from the Palazzo Medici-Riccardi. Formerly a convent; transferred under Cosimo the Elder in 1436 to the Dominican Friars. Famous for the vivid but pious frescoes of Fra Angelico da Fiesole. There has never been anything else quite like these. Don't miss them. Savonarola lived here before he aroused the ire of the Medici.

Cappella dei Principi (Chapel of the Princes). In the Piazza Madonna degli Aldobrandini. Reached from the Piazza del Duomo by going west on the Via de' Cerretani to the Via Zannetti, which runs into the Via de' Conti. The next open space is the piazza. The chapel is a huge octagonal structure elaborately decorated with more kinds of marble than you would have thought existed. Burial Chapel of the Medici Grand Dukes.

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From the Chapel, a winding passage leads to the Sagrestia Nuova (New Sacristy), designed by Michelangelo, but unfinished. Contains the tombs of Giuliano and Lorenzo de' Medici, descendents of the brothers who figured in the bloody doings in the Cathedral in 1487. These tombs are almost as familiar to Americans as della Robbia's *bambini*.

Keep At It.

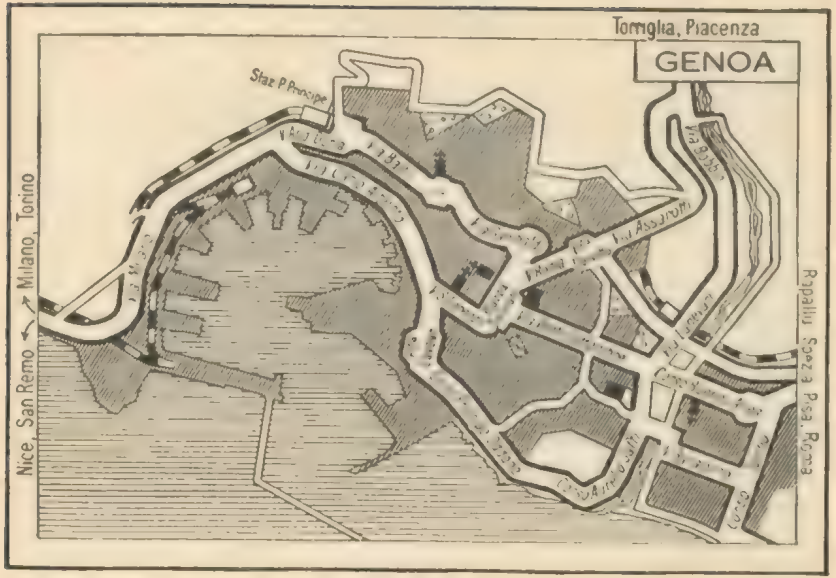
All the foregoing is a mere scratch on the surface of the wealth of beauty and craftsmanship that is Florence. If you have the time and the patience to visit the many churches, museums, and art galleries not even mentioned here, you will not be wasting anything. To have seen what man is capable of doing with his hands after creating it in his mind, is to make one proud of the human race no matter to what depths it sinks from time to time. You who are fortunate enough to see Florence will never forget it. Even though you may be disgusted to see that many of the priceless sculptures in the Piazza della Signoria are covered with the scrawled inscriptions of those who have no respect for the dignity of men, remember that the statues will endure long after rain and wind have erased these desecrations.

GENOA

Up to Now.

Nobody knows just when Genoa was founded. Anyway, it was a very long time before the birth of Christ. Tradition has it that the Ligurians, an ancient tribe of shepherds and farmers occupying the foothills of northwestern Italy, decided to give up the pastoral life and come down to the sea. They scattered all along the coast of what is now called the Gulf of Genoa, but a small knot of them remained on the site of the best harbor in the area. Through contact with the Greeks and Phoenicians, Etruscans, and Carthaginians, these early Genoese got wise to the ways of the world, limited as if was in those days. Their commercial and naval power increased, in step with their knowledge of other lands and other ways of doing things.

Just as Genoa was beginning to amount to something, the Carthaginians suddenly appeared in the harbor with a sizeable fleet and destroyed the town. The Carthaginian triumph was short-lived, however, and Roman interests soon rebuilt Genoa, connecting it with the metropolis by the famous Via Aurelia.



Genoa was not spared when the Barbarian Goths and Lombards overran the Italian peninsula. Several centuries later, the ferocious Saracens also managed to subjugate the city, and then the Franks got control.

During the Middle Ages, the Genoese managed to shake off all outside domination and were able to establish the Genoese Republic.

By this time, the city had acquired considerable military and commercial fame. Adventurous Genoese participated in the Crusades as members of the numerous armies sent out against the Moslems. The Genoese made a substantial name for themselves as a result of their victories in the Holy Wars, and the Republic of Genoa soon became a colonial power and leader among European sea towns. Her rivalry with Pisa and Venice provoked fierce and bloody wars.

After a lot of internal trouble and several periods of unwelcome foreign domination, Genoa reached the high point of her power and glory in the fifteenth century. However, this happy state of affairs didn't last long. Domestic squabbles, French inter-

vention, Turkish conquest of her colonies, Austrian domination, Napoleonic aggression, revolution—all made for a turbulent political existence.

In spite of political unrest, commercial enterprise expanded. When Genoa became a part of the Italian Kingdom, she had much to offer in the way of prestige as an important port and trading center for world commerce.

Looking Around.

There is plenty to see in Genoa, even though considerable damage has been done through military necessity. You may as well start in the Piazza de Ferrari, which is in the heart of the city.

On the northwest side of the piazza stands the Palazzo de Ferrari, a handsome eighteenth century palace. Leaving the piazza by the Via Sellai at its western corner you enter the Piazza Umberto Primo, on the left side of which rises Sant' Ambrogio, a Jesuit Church built in 1589. The interior is lavishly decorated and contains paintings by Guido Reni and Rubens. The north side of the piazza is dominated by the Palazzo Ducale, built in

the thirteenth century and remodeled in the sixteenth. The staircases inside are exceptionally fine.

Back to back with the Piazza Umberto Primo is the Cathedral of San Lorenzo, reached by the Via San Lorenzo. The original building was consecrated in 1118. It was rebuilt in the Gothic style in 1307–12, and the Renaissance dome was added in 1567.

Palazzo di San Giorgio. Located on the water front in the Piazza Raibetta. Built in 1260. Occupied by the Banco di San Giorgio from 1408 to 1797. This bank had a very powerful position in European monetary affairs during the Renaissance.

San Matteo. Gothic church restored in 1278. Contains many memorials of the Doria family, once the most powerful family of the Genoese Republic. The small piazza in front of the church is surrounded with the Doria Palaces, in which various members of the family once lived.

Santa Maria di Castello. Very old church built on the site of an ancient Roman castle. Contains ancient columns and altars.

Palazzo Municipale. Built in 1564. Contains facsimilies of letters by Columbus. Also the violin of the famous virtuoso Niccolò Paganini.

MILAN
Varese
Como, Lugano
Bellagio
Monza, St Moritz
Venezia
Domodossola
Novara, Torino
Abbiategrasso
Vicevano
Pavia
Genova
Lodi
Bologna
Via Gallarate
Corso Sempione
Stazione Centrale
Via Marconi
Via Galazzo
C. Buenos-Aires
Parco
Foro Bonaparte
Corso Vercelli
Piazza Duomo
Via Torino
Via Mercanti
Via Meravigli
Via Mercanti
Via Mercanti
Via Mercanti

invented other weapons of war for Sforza, who was having his troubles with the other rulers in Italy, which was then split up into at least four separate states. Among the inventions were hand grenades, shrapnel, the parachute, demountable bridges, a flame thrower, and an armored vehicle. Leonardo also designed an airplane. His ideas were laughed at by many people, including his patron, Sforza, who might have succeeded in his war with the French if he had gone into battle with the tanks, hand grenades, and poison gas which Leonardo invented. And all this was back in the fifteenth century.

At the same time that Leonardo invented the real M. 1 models of the weapons which you brought to Italy with you, he was painting his famous "The Last Supper," on the wall of the Dominican Convent of Ste. Marie delle Gracie, and the equally famous "Mona Lisa," or "La Gioconda." You can see the famous "Last Supper," although it has faded considerably through long neglect.

In 313 A. D., the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great issued his edict at Milan allowing the free practice of Christianity for the first time. The city's greatest period came during the years 374 to 397, when St. Ambrose was the Archbishop of Milan. The

most highly regarded medieval building in Lombardy is the Church of Sant' Ambrozio, which has mosaics, frescoes, and sculptural works of great historic and artistic value. The bodies of St. Ambrozio, St. Gervasio, and St. Protasio are buried underneath a golden altar in the church.

The oldest part of Milan is the Piazza del Duomo, and it is supposed to date from the time that the Etruscans occupied the territory from the sixth century B. C. until about 400 B. C. That is where most of the principal streets meet, and it is easiest to learn the city by starting to see it from that point. The Piazza takes its name from the Cathedral, which is on its east side. It is built of a stone resembling granite encased throughout with marble which has lost its whiteness; it has 135 small spires, each of them topped by a statue. Altogether, there are 2,300 statues on the outside of the Cathedral, and almost 4,000 inside. In the Cathedral is a monument of two of the brothers of Pope Pius IV, done by Aretino, after designs by Michaelangelo. You can get a fine view of the Lombardy plain from the top of the Cathedral, which is reached by a stairway or an elevator.

The Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II is supposed to be one of the greatest arcades in all of Europe. Opposite the Galleria, on

the south side of the Duomo, is the Royal Palace, which has two wings. The original building was the official residence of the town Consuls from the tenth to the fourteenth centuries. There are many works of art in the palace. The Church of San Gottardo was once part of the palace, but it is now separated. It has some frescoes by Giotto and his pupils. The Via Mercanti, opposite the façade of the Cathedral, is one of the busiest and oldest parts of the town.

The Ambrosian Library, which was founded at the beginning of the seventeenth century, is a world-famous institution. It has nearly half a million printed books, about 3,000 early works of art, and about 20,000 manuscripts. One of these manuscripts is Petrarch's annotated Virgil. The Brera Palace, which was erected in 1651, has a library containing about 350,000 volumes.

For a long period until just before the war, Milan was one of the greatest musical centers of the world. Voice and piano students came to the city from many countries to receive instruction from teachers who were known all over the world. The once-great La Scala Opera House, where many of the Italian operas were given their premiere performances, is in Milan.

The city has five railroad stations, one of them the terminal for

22 main lines. More foreigners came to Milan than to any other Italian city, because it is the center of communications between Central Europe and the Mediterranean Sea. The 50 streetcar lines in the city go to the town limits. Most of the lines start from three centers which are not far from the Piazza del Duomo. They are the Via Orefici, the Via Cappellari, and the Via Tommaso Grossi. There are also 6 bus lines, and taxicabs used to be plentiful.

Milan in peacetime had a number of movie houses and 10 theatres for opera, vaudeville, and plays, in addition to the Scala. There were 2 race tracks at San Siro, one of them for trotting races. Another race track was the Mirabello, and auto races were held at the Monza track. Sports events were held in the Arena, the Sports Palace, and the Ice Palace.

Before the war, there were almost 200 first- and second-class hotels in the city, as well as a number of smaller hotels and boarding houses which were considerably cheaper. There are many restaurants and other eating places in Milan. The main shopping districts are the Piazza del Duomo, the Corso Vittorio Emanuele, the Via Manzoni and the Via Dante.

A number of small towns surrounding Milan have places of

historical and artistic interest. About half a mile from the gates of the town is the Certosa di Garegnano, which was built in the 14th century as a convent. The church, which remained when the convent was destroyed in the 18th century, contains paintings by artists of the 17th and 18th centuries. The town of Monza is about 7½ miles from the city. There are a number of monuments at Monza, one of them is the Basilica of San Giovani, where they keep the "Iron Crown," with which the kings of Italy were always crowned.

The Lake Country.

Lake Como, one of the great beauty spots of the world is only 2 hours away from Milan, and no one who has the opportunity to make a trip there should miss it. The town of Como which is at the Southern end of the lake has great charm, and it has a good cathedral. The scenery at any part of the lake is something you will never forget. The nearby lakes of Maggiore and Lugano are equally beautiful. There are other lakes in the district which are smaller but not less beautiful. It is the lake country in the district which drew so many people to Milan from all parts of the world.

NAPLES

Background.

Naples with its old world history, majestic Vesuvius, Pompeii, the Castle of St. Elmo, famous churches—these and many other historic sights are important to the soldier.

The Naples of pre-war days is gone. It will be impossible for you to visit that Naples—it may never exist again—but some of the old city still remains, having escaped the ravages of war, and while you can, you should see as much as possible in order to visualize the days that were, and realize better the vandalism of the sacking, destroying Germans. The Royal Palace is in ruins, famous collections have been removed from the museums, many buildings have been walled in or sandbagged for protection, but despite the damaged areas you will see much of pre-war days that will interest you, much to add to your general knowledge of the world, much you will want to remember.

Some things are beyond the power of the Germans to destroy. Of all the cities in Europe only Istanbul can claim as beautiful a site as Naples, and gutted and sacked though the city may be,

the site retains its beauty and holds hope for the new Naples that will rise. The water in the bay retains its remarkable blueness, and the beauty of Mt. Vesuvius, stretching 4,000 feet into the sky and constantly overhung by soft, pink clouds, continues, both day and night, to dominate the city and the countryside. Here lie the fabulous buried cities of POMPEII and HERCULANEUM which were completely destroyed when the Mount erupted in 79 A. D., but which have now been partially excavated.

It is generally agreed that Naples was originally settled by the Greeks, subsequently having been conquered by the expanding Roman Kingdom in the fourth century B. C. In more recent times, but while Italy was still a geographical area consisting of a number of independent states, the city was the capital of the Kingdom of Naples, or of the Two Sicilies (at times the kingdoms were combined, at other times separated). In 1860, during the movement for the unification of Italy, the Neapolitan army collapsed before the advance of Garibaldi who entered Naples after the flight of the king and queen. A plebiscite approved the absorption into the united Italian kingdom and in 1861 the first Italian parliament met at Turin and proclaimed Victor Emanuel King of Italy.

Layout.

Naples is situated on the northern shore of the Bay of Naples. The city is built at the base and on the slopes of a range of volcanic hills and rises from the shore like an amphitheater. From the summit occupied by the Castle of St. Elmo a ridge runs south to form the promontory of Pizzofalcone and divides the city into two natural crescents. The western crescent, known as the Chiaia ward, is a long narrow strip between the sea and Omero Hill and was the fashionable quarter most frequented by foreign residents and visitors. A fine broad street, the Rivera di Chiaia, was begun at the close of the 16th century and runs for a mile and a half from east to west, ending at the foot of the Hill of Posilipo. In front lie the public gardens of the Villa Nazionale, the chief promenade of the city, which were first laid out in 1780. The whole edge of the bay from the Castel dell' Ovo to Mergellina is lined by a massive embankment and carriage-way, the Via Caracciolo, constructed in 1875–81.

The eastern crescent includes by far the largest, as well as the oldest, portion of Naples. The best known thoroughfare is the historic Toledo, or Via Roma. It runs almost due north from the

Piazza del Plebiscito in front of the Palazzo Reale till, as Via Nuova di Capodimonte, it crosses the Ponte della Sanita and reaches the gates of the Capodimonte Palace, thus dividing the city into two parts. Another leading street, the Corso Vittorio Emanuele, winds along the slopes behind the city from the Mergollina railway station till it reaches the Museum by the Via Salvator Rosa.

The two crescents have been united by the construction of a connecting thoroughfare on the seaward side of the Castel Nuovo, the Royal Palace, and the hill of Pizzofalcone, while a tunnel (the Galleria Della Vittoria) has been cut under the hill. A metropolitan underground railway between the central station at Naples and Pozzuoli also unites the east and west halves of the city.

In the Bay lies the Isle of Capri where Augustus Caesar, first of the Roman emperors, resided for many years, as did his successor, Tiberius, who built at least 12 villas on the Isle. Here, too, is located the famous Blue Grotto, the most celebrated of many sea caves known in Roman times, and which was rediscovered in 1826.

On the northeast shore east of Naples is an extensive flat watered

by the Sarno, which, in classical times, formed the port of Pompeii. From this flat rises Mt. Vesuvius, at the base of which, on or near the seashore, are populous villages as well as the classical sites of Herculaneum and Pompeii. The northwest shore, to the west of Naples, is more broken and irregular. The promontory of Posilipo divides this part of the bay into two smaller bays which are connected by a tunnel through the promontory, 2,244 feet long, 21 feet broad and in some places as much as 70 feet high. This tunnel was quite possibly constructed by Marcus Agrippa in 27 B. C. and forms the so-called Grotto of Posilipo; at the Naples end stands the reputed Tomb of Virgil.

In modern times Naples has increased in size at an enormous rate. In 1931 the population was 631,420 and that of the Commune 839,390. On the large areas reclaimed from the sea, hotels and mansions were erected. The gardens at the west end of the town have all been built over.

Worth Seeing.

The Castle of St. Elmo, which dominates the whole city, had its origin in a fort (*Belforte*) erected by King Robert the Wise in 1329. The present building, with its rock-hewn fossos and mas-

sive ramparts, was constructed by Don Pedro de Toledo in 1537–46.

The Castel dell'Ovo, which was restored in the 16th century, stands on a small island now joined to the shore at the foot of the Pizzofalcone by an arch-supported causeway. Castel Nuovo was constructed near the harbor in 1279–82 by Charles I of Anjou and contains a triumphal arch erected in 1455–58 to Alfonso I. The whole building was restored not long ago.

Thanks to the Germans, the Royal Palace, once the residence of the ruling family of the Kingdom of Naples, is today in ruins.

The National Museum (Museo Nazionale) was, before the present war, the most important building in the city for the tourist, but today he must content himself with seeing only the outside of the building. It contained a vast exhibition, including ancient mural paintings from Herculaneum, Pompeii, etc., the finest collection of ancient bronzes in the world, many renowned masterpieces of ancient marble sculptures, Egyptian and medieval antiquities, papyri, engravings, coins, vases, paintings, and an excellent library.

Inasmuch as Naples has nearly 300 churches and chapels, it is not possible to see them all. But among the many churches which are notable for rich internal decoration and architectural beauty

are the Cathedral of St. Januarius which was erected in 1294-1323, rebuilt after being burned in the 15th century, and restored in 1837.

Adjoining the Cathedral is the Church of Santa Restituta, a basilica of the fourth century. Its baptistry contains important mosaics of that period. Santa Chiara dates from the 14th century and is interesting for a fresco ascribed to Giotto and monuments to Robert the Wise, his son's wife, Mary of Valois, and his daughter Mary, empress of Constantinople.

San Domenico Maggiore, founded by Charles II in 1289 but completely restored later, has an effective interior particularly rich in Renaissance sculpture. In the neighboring monastery is the cell of St. Thomas Aquinas.

Then there are the Sant' Angelo a Nilo, which contains the tomb of Cardinal Brancaccio, the joint work of Donatello and Michelozzo (1426-28); San Giovanni a Carbonara, built in 1343 and enlarged by King Ladislaus in 1400, which contains the tomb of the king, the masterpiece of Andrea da Firenze (1428), and that of Gianni Caracciolo, the favorite of Joanna II, who was murdered in 1432; San Lorenzo (13th century), the Royal Church of the House of Anjou; and Santa Maria Donna Regina, with its

frescoes by Pietro Cavallini. The Catacombs of St. Gennaro (2d century) are in many respects equal to those at Rome.

The University of Naples was founded by Frederick II in 1224, and was well equipped with zoological, mineralogical, and geological museums, a physiological institute, a cabinet of anthropology, and botanical gardens. The buildings were originally erected in 1557 for the use of the Jesuits. The famous Zoological Station at Naples, whose Aquarium is the principal building in the Villa Nazionale and which was one of the most famous in the world, was founded in 1872. The astronomical observatory is situated on the hill of Capodimonto.

The San Carlo Opera House, with its area of 5,157 square yards and stalls capable of seating 1,000 spectators, is one of the largest in Europe. It was originally built in 1737 but was destroyed by fire in 1816 and completely rebuilt.

A trip to Mt. Vesuvius is a "must" for all those who can possibly obtain transportation. The eruption of this famous volcano in 79 A. D. — its first in recorded history—completely destroyed the two cities of Herculaneum and Pompeii. Today the buried city of Herculaneum lies under the modern Rosina, 5 miles southeast

of Naples. The excavations are in part subterranean, and in part under the sky, as at Pompeii.

The site of Pompeii (16½ miles from Naples) was long lost to the world but was rediscovered in 1748 when the Amphitheater and a few other buildings were exhumed. Systematic excavations have been conducted since 1860, and to date about one-half of the ancient city has been uncovered.

Finding Your Way.

You may very well begin your tour of western Naples at the public gardens of the Villa Nazionale, located between the Via Carraciola (a street extending along the bay from the Castel dell'Ovo to Morgellina) and the Rivera di Chiaia. In this same vicinity is the Aquarium, which, before the war, was one of the most famous in the world.

From the Aquarium and the Gardens you cross the Rivera di Chiaia and continue north. Between the Via Cavallerizza and the Via Amedeo you will find the Church of St. Maria, one of the most interesting in this part of the city. Walking northeast on the winding up-hill Via Amedeo you enter the Corso Vittorio Emanuelo. Continuing on this street for about 300 yards after

it turns north you come to the Church of San Martino. You will now be very close to the summit occupied by the Castle of St. Elmo and to the Museo Nazionale of San Martino. After you have visited these buildings you will have seen the most interesting sights in this part of the city.

You can begin a tour of eastern Naples by first seeing the Castel dell' Ovo. After that, continue along the bay following the Via Partenope and the Via Nazario Sauro until it turns into the Via Cesario Console. Following this street you come to the Piazza del Plebiscito. Left of the Piazza is a church, on the right is the Palazzo Reale (Royal Palace). Continuing northeast along the Via Vittorio Emanuele II you come to the Castel Nuovo. This street runs into the Piazza Municipio, on which thoroughfare, between the Via Medina and the Via Agostino Depretis, is the building which served as the German Headquarters. Turning left on the Piazza Municipio you enter the Via Roma, or the Toledo, perhaps the most historic street in the entire city. At the intersection of these two streets is the Town Hall. About 200 yards north, turn east off of the Via Roma and onto the Via G. San Felice. Following this street into the Piazza Nia. Amore and the Corso Umberto I. to the intersection of the last-named thor-

oughfare with the Via Mozzocannone, you find the famous UNIVERSITY OF NAPLES.

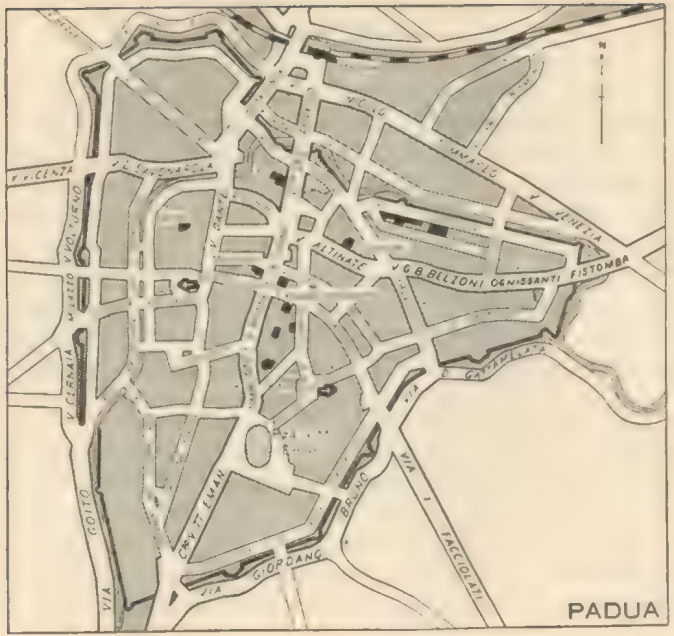
If you want to visit the CATHEDRAL OF ST. JANUARIUS (the most important church in the city), you should, after leaving the University, continue along the Corso Umberto I to the Via del Duomo and follow this street for about 500 yards to its intersection with the Via del Tribunal where the Cathedral is located. After finishing at the Cathedral, go along the Via del Duomo till you come to the street which, to the right, is known as the Via Floria, and to the left as the Piazza Cavour. Turning left, proceed along the Piazza Cavour till it intersects the Via S. Teresa Degli Scalzi (south of the Piazza Cavour the last-named street is known as the Via Enrico Pessina). You will now be at a famous MUSEUM.

If you want to continue your tour beyond the Museum, you will find the CAPODIMONTE PALACE located about a mile north of the Museum on the Via S. Teresa Degli Scalzi (which will change its name to the Via Nuova di Capodimonte after its intersection with the Via della Sanita). The ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY is a short distance southeast of the Castle Grounds. You may want to see it while you are near.

PADUA

PADUA, which is the scene of Shakespeare's "Taming of the Shrew," is 25 miles inland from Venice. Ever since early Roman times, the city has been important industrially. It has chemical factories, distilleries and breweries, candle and ink works, foundries, sawmills, automobile plants, and factories where agricultural machinery is made.

It was important to the early Romans because the town was on the trade routes from Italy to Illyria, the region on the east side of the Adriatic Sea, and to the Eastern provinces. The town was left in ruins by the Huns when they passed through it on their way to Rome in 452. In the late Middle Ages it became important again as a crossroads of important trade routes. Its famous UNIVERSITY was founded in the year 1222, and about a century after that it started to become the greatest center of Italian learning. Padua held that position for a long time and, in the long list of men who taught, studied, and painted and wrote at the University are such illustrious names as Dante, Petrarch, Galileo, William Harvey, Fallopius, Jacopo Bellini, Titian, Fra Filippo



Lippi, and Tasso. Giotto and Donatello, two of Italy's foremost artists, also worked in Padua.

Citizens of Padua and students call the University "Il Bo," by which name it has been known for such a long time that its origin seems to be disputed. In the seventeenth century a traveler wrote that he believed the nickname was given to the University because the first students may have come there from Oxford ("Il Bo" means "The Ox"). Most authorities, however, agree that the University got its name because it is built on the site of an old inn which was called "Il Bo."

Most of the men who brought fame and glory to Padua came from other cities and countries, however. Livy, the Roman historian, and Mantegna, the greatest figure in the so-called Paduan School of Painting, were the two natives of the town who were really great.

In the year 1405 the city of Venice, which was then at the height of its power, took Padua over after a number of wealthy families had fought to gain control over it. Padua became more prosperous under the rule of the Venetians, and the art and university movements of the city flourished.

The city had a pre-war population of about 138,000 persons.

It is a fairly modern town, although it looks medieval. It is surrounded by a high wall, flanked with bastions. It has 7 gates. Canals connect it with the Adige River and the lagoons of the Adriatic. Colonnades line the streets and squares, and it has several fine piazzas, or squares. The best of these is the Piazza Vittorio Emanuele, which used to be called the Prato Della Vallo. There are trees in the square, and a running stream surrounds it. In the Piazza there are a number of statues of famous citizens of Padua and of men who brought fame to the town. The Palazzo della Ragione, or town house, is one of the most important buildings in the city. It was built during 1172 and 1219 and then remodeled in 1420. In it is a large hall which has about 400 paintings on its walls.

Padua's Cathedral was built in the sixteenth century. It has a famous library full of priceless manuscripts and rare books. Petrarch, who was canon of the Cathedral, is said to have founded this library. The University has a botanical garden which is said to be the oldest in all of Europe, an observatory, and a library which is said to contain more than 200,000 printed works.

TRIESTE

Trieste, unlike most of the cities of Italy, is long on commerce and industry but short on art and tradition. Although founded in ancient Roman times, it has remained always a commercial city rather than a cultural center. It has been more frequently modernized than other Italian cities, and its appearance is quite different for that reason.

Trieste belonged to Austria from 1382 to 1919, and although returned to Italy after the last war, the city and its people bear the unmistakable signs of this long occupation, in architecture and speech. This is not to say that the *Triestinos* liked Austrian rule. As a matter of fact, the city was a hotbed of Italian patriotism.

The center of activity in Trieste is the Piazza dell'Unita. On the water front near the center of the harbor, it is lined with handsome modern buildings. Dominating the sky line is the high, castle-crowned hill, to the slopes of which clings the old town. You may as well take a crack at this, because there is very little else to see in Trieste. There are several ways to get up, but one

of the most spectacular is by way of the Via della Cattedrale, which is very steep. You'll notice a lot of well-worn handrails on the way up. It seems that these are there to keep the citizens from being blown away by the *Bora*, a particularly fierce Adriatic wind. Seems that in the days when ladies wore long, full skirts they were always having to be fished out of the harbor, where they had been deposited, kicking and shouting, by the *Bora*.

About halfway up, at the Via del Trionfo, you'll be ready for a breather. A few steps away is the Arco di Riccardo, an ancient Roman arch which has been added to in recent times. The legend goes that Richard Coeur de Lion was imprisoned here on his return from Crusades, which explains the name.

Continuing your climb, you'll come to a strange little cathedral, the Basilica of San Giusto, which is made up of bits and pieces of buildings dating from the fifth century. Set on the foundations of a Roman temple, it is actually the sum of two churches and a baptistry, thrown together to make a single nave of five aisles. Weirdly proportioned though it is, it has a definite charm.

On your way back down, you might stop at the Museo Civico de Storia e d'Arte. The collection consists of a large assortment

of ancient vases, utensils, fragments of sculpture, and the like. There are also a few paintings. In back of the museum is the Giardino Lapidario, containing an assemblage of antique rocks and fragments dug up by archaeologists. There is also a monument to Johann Joachim Winckelmann, the first historian of antique art. Winckelmann's recognition was his downfall. He was done in by a common thief who thought Winckelmann was rich, because of the medals presented to him by the Empress of Austria.

If you like caves, there is the Grotta Gigante, 787 feet long and 453 feet high, complete with stalactites. It is located to the north, about an hour out of town.

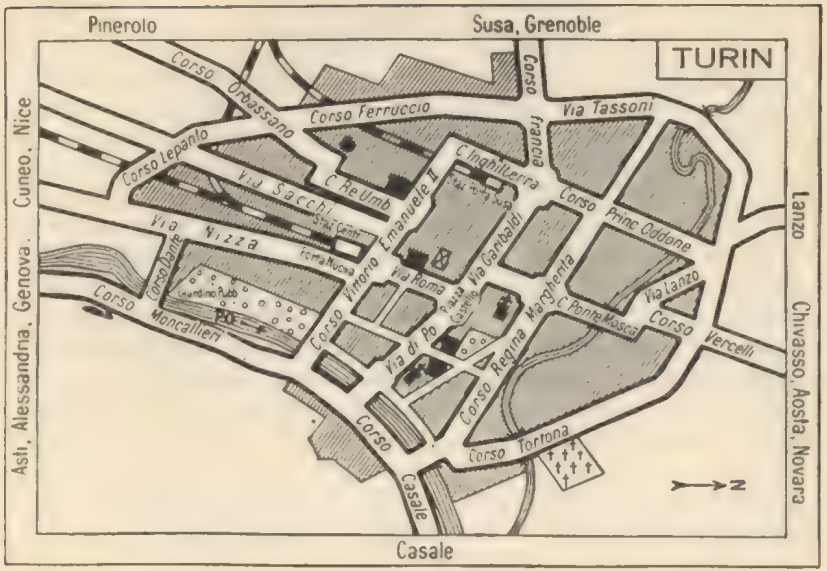
Five miles northwest of the city is the Castle of Miramare, formerly the property of the unfortunate Archduke Maximilian, who fell afoul of a fatal revolution while he was Emperor of Mexico. In the Castle, his demented Empress, Carlotta, waited vainly until her death at a ripe old age, for the return of her beloved husband.

Down on the water front, between the Molo Pescatori and the Molo Venezia is a fine aquarium for those who want to see fish.

TURIN

Turin, with a peacetime population of about 600,000, and the second greatest industrial city of Italy, is at the foot of the Alps near the French border. It has been called the Detroit of Italy because of its automobile factories. The Fiat plants, which were among the largest in Europe, made pleasure cars as well as trucks. There were great aircraft plants in Turin before the war, and other important pre-war products were chemicals, high explosives, railway cars, shoes, and uniforms. For 5 years after 1860, Turin was the capital of Italy. And until then it was the center of government for the Kingdom of Sardinia, which preceded the modern Italian kingdom. Long before it became an industrial city the town was famous as a center for art and learning, and experts still rank its art galleries, museums, and libraries with the best in the world.

Compared to other Italian cities, Turin looks modern. No other city in the country has such a regular and geometric street plan. Its streets are long and straight, and they often have arcades. In



the squares are well-cared-for gardens. Monuments are everywhere. The plan is due to the fact that the city grew over the ruins of an ancient Roman town known as *Augusta Taurinorum*. The Roman town made a rectangle 2,210 feet long and 1,370 feet broad. It can be traced from the Piazza Castello on the east, the Via della Consolata and the Corso Siccardi on the west, the Via Giulio on the north, and the Via Santa Teresa on the south. What is now the Via Garibaldi was the *Via Decumana*. The Via Porta Palatina and the Via San Tommaso run over the ground, followed by the old Roman *Via Principalis*. The Roman amphitheatre and other ruins of that period were destroyed in 1536 by Francis I when he built fortifications on their sites. The French occupied the city for a time, and then, in 1706, besieged it once more. One of the heroes of Turin, who is still remembered after more than two centuries, is Pietro Micca, a sapper in the forces of Turin, who lost his life saving his city. Micca exploded a mine, thereby saving the citadel and throwing back the French besiegers.

Turin is another one of the many Italian cities which has a street named after Victor Emanuele. This one is the Corso Victor Emanuele, and it is a wide thoroughfare leading from the Porta

Nuova Station. And directly across the way from the station is the Piazza Carlo Felice. The Via Roma leads from that square to the Piazza San Carlo and the Piazza Castello, which is the hub of the city. Most of the main streets shoot out of the Castello square. The Palazzo Madama, which was built in the thirteenth century, is in the center of the square and is one of the architectural and historical sights of the city. The building was used by the Senate when Turin was the Sardinian capital, and for several years after the formation of the Italian kingdom it was also the meeting place of the nation's Senate. Roman and medieval remains may be seen in some of the building's rooms. Other points of interest in the town are the Porta Palatina, a gateway of Roman days which was restored in 1910, and the Castello del Valentino, which was built after the French manner, to please the wife of Vittorio Amedeo I.

In the Royal Palace, in which is the King's private library, is a valuable collection of books, manuscripts, and drawings and an extensive collection of armor and weapons with historical and artistic interest. Among these are a sword worn by Napoleon at Marengo, one sword made by the artist Donatello, and another

which is attributed to Cellini. In the old days in Italy, when an Italian lady got annoyed with her boy friend or her husband, he got the point quick. Some of the ladies carried around three-edged stilettos, and they were good at the thrust and recover routine. And in the Royal Library, among the collection of miniatures and drawings, is a self-portrait of Leonardo da Vinci.

Here are some of the other buildings, including churches, galleries, and museums which are historical or religious shrines and which hold many world-famous art works. The Cathedral of San Giovanni Battista, which was begun in 1498 on the site of three earlier churches, has an urn which contains the relic of the *Santissimo Sudario*, or Holy Shroud, said to be a part of the shroud used to cover the body of Christ; the Church of San Domenico, where there is a picture of the *Madonna with St. Dominic*, by Guercino; the Church of La Consolata; the Palazzo Carignano, where Victor Emmanuel II, after whom so many Italian streets were named, was born. This last palace houses a picture gallery with paintings by such masters as Van Eyck, Veronese, Rembrandt, Raphael, Botticelli, and Van Dyck.

There are a number of cafes, confectioners, and wine and beer shops in Turin where food is served. Beer is a favorite drink of the people of Turin. The town is also famous for its vermouth.

Short trips can be made from Turin into the surrounding area.

VENICE

Briefing.

Attila the Hun, the Scourge of God, drove before him the people of Altino, Aquileia, and Padua, on the mainland, right out into the Adriatic, where they sought refuge on a few dismal sand bars and soggy islands. In this ignominious manner, Venice was born in 425 A. D. Less than a hundred years later the Venetians were already getting rich from the neighboring salt flats and from their adventurous merchant fleet. This handful of refugees from the Barbarians grew, through hard work and foresight, into a powerful republic, and made Venice the most brilliant trading city in the world. Since then, its glory as a center of commerce has faded, but the beauty of the city remains.

Its 15,000 houses and palaces are all built on piles to keep them from sinking into the ooze of the 117 small islands over which the city stands. Venice is thoroughly divided, like a jig-saw puzzle, by some 150 canals; linked up again by 378 bridges. In many places there are no sidewalks along the canals—the front steps of the houses descending right into the floating orange rinds.

There are no streets wide enough or long enough to merit the name, but there is an unbelievable tangle of narrow passages which frequently end abruptly in blank walls or at the edge of some canal. You'll just have to back up and try again. There are many little open squares which are called *campi* (fields) or *campielli* (little fields), there being only one *piazza*—the world-famous Piazza di San Marco, or St. Mark's Square.

Don't look for streetcars, busses, donkey-carts or carriages such as you find anywhere else in Italy. Getting around Venice means walking, or going by boat. Here you have a choice: a gondola, complete with cushions and high prices; or you can ride the *vaporetti*, which are small, chugging steam launches running on approximate schedules between fixed points along the main canals—and much cheaper. The three big canals are the Grand Canal, the main drag of Venice; the Canale di San Marco, anchorage for ocean-going passenger ships in peacetime; and the Canale della Giudecca, used for the loading and unloading of cargo ships.

Picture Postcards.

There are very few buildings in Venice that you won't have

seen somewhere—in the movies, on the plumber's New Year calendar, adorning the walls of that hotel bedroom in Atlantic City, or in your fifth-grade geography book. More first-, second-, and third-class artists have come to Venice (and have come away with something to show for their pains) than to almost any other European city. Because Venice is a natural: practically any view of anything in the city is picturesque. Fortunately, all the bad art it has inspired through the centuries hasn't dimmed its luster or its romantic appeal.

The hub of Venetian life has always been the Piazza di San Marco. This superb square paved with trachyte and marble, always full of activity and pigeons, is striking evidence of the ancient glory of Venice. On three sides it is enclosed by symmetrical colonnades which take on an informal air from the café tables which extend from under the arcades out into the piazza. On the fourth side is the fabulous San Marco, with its 325-foot Campanile. This incredible building has been the subject of countless rhapsodies in print and in paint. Dedicated to St. Mark, the patron saint of the city, it was begun in 830 on the site of a church of St. Theodore and was rebuilt after a fire in 976. The roof is a great cluster of golden domes of different sizes. Inside

and out, the church is adorned with five hundred columns of rare oriental marbles with capitals in a wide variety of styles. The upper parts of the walls, the interior ceilings, and great semicircles on the face of the building are covered with mosaics of colored and gilded glass and semiprecious stones, the earliest of which date from the 11th century. The entire floor of the church, which somewhat resembles a series of low ground swells, is entirely paved with marble mosaic. The pulpits, altars, lanterns, and other interior fittings are richly carved and ornamented. If anyone should ever ask you what Byzantine art and architecture are like, just tell what you saw in San Marco. A more thoroughgoing example would be hard to find outside of Istanbul (ex-Constantinople, ex-Byzantium) itself.

On your left as you leave the church is the 14th century Campanile. Above the brick shaft, 162 feet high, is a limestone bell chamber, from which you get a handsome view of the city. The bell chamber is surmounted by a spire in reinforced concrete covered with plates of copper and supporting the old gilded figure of an angel (now used as a weather vane). If the reinforced concrete seems like a modern touch, it's because the whole shebang

collapsed with a dusty and terrifying crash in 1902, and had to be rebuilt completely.

Directly across the piazza from the Campanile, over an archway leading into the maze of the city, is the Torre dell' Orlogio, the principal feature of which is a trick clock. Two bronze giants called the *Mori* or Moors, each armed with a sledge-hammer, strike the hours on a large bell. This they have been doing ever since 1497.

The two three-storied palaces on the north and south sides of the Piazza di San Marco were once the residence of the nine "procurators," the highest officials of the Republic, whence their name Procuratié. The north wing was built in 1480–1517 and the south wing was begun in 1584. The connecting building on the west, called the Nuova Fabbrica was built in 1810 when Venice was a part of Napoleon's Empire. Here is housed the Civico Museo Corrèr which is worthwhile because it's not so large that just walking in makes you tired, and because the collection is very representative of Venetian culture and will give you the flavor of the place without a lot of the distracting influences common to the average museum full of unrelated exhibits.

You are probably ready for a beer by this time. If there is any,

there are several famous cafés in the arcades of the Procuratíe where you can get it.

Just around the corner, beginning in the space between the Campanile and San Marco, is the Piazzetta di San Marco, known simply as the Piazzetta. At its opposite end is the Molo which is where the gondoliers, each with his little squad of hat-raisers, boat-hook operators, handers-down, and helpers-in, foregather to wait for fares. They are all tip-demanders, but very good natured about it. Also on the Molo are two granite columns, brought from the Near East and put up in 1180. One of them bears the winged lion of St. Mark; the other, St. Theodore, patron of the ancient republic, on a crocodile.

The building on the west side of the Piazzetta is the Libreria Vecchia (old library), built in 1536–53, housing the Library of St. Mark which is made up of 320,000 printed volumes and 12,000 manuscripts, many of which are priceless. The interior is enriched by paintings by the Venetian Masters, Titian, Tintoretto, and Veronese.

Across the Piazzetta from the Library is the Palazzo Ducale (Palace of the Doges). This handsome building has seen as much magnificence, cruelty, lavish generosity, low intrigue, catastrophe,

and prosperity as perhaps any other building this side of Inferno. It is said to have been founded about 814 for the first *Doge* (Ruling Duke) of Venice. Hardly a trace of the original building remains, however, the present structure having been put up in three sections—1309–40, 1424–38, and 1484–1511. Finishing touches were added in 1545–49. In 1574 and in 1577 there were serious fires which completely gutted the Palace. Restorations were made by several architects, among them the famous Palladio. As you can see from the high-water mark, it has been flooded a couple of times, too.

Practically every stone in its walls, every staircase, statue, painting, tapestry, every stick of furniture in the Palace has its own fascinating history. You'll enjoy the place a lot more if you go through it with a detailed catalogue in hand. Casanova, the great and inexhaustible lover, was once locked up in a room here, according to his memoirs, but while imprisoned he managed to continue his lusty career uninterrupted, finally escaping through a neat little hole in the roof.

Connecting the Palazzo with the Carceri (prison) across the *Rio del Palazzo*, is the Ponte dei Sospiri (Bridge of Sighs) over

which common criminals passed from the courts in the Palazzo to the dungeons to which they had been sentenced.

The Grand Canal.

This is rubber-necks' paradise. Pile into a gondola at the Molo and relax. There are 2 miles of palaces and churches lining the canal, and your gondolier will no doubt reel off their names as you come to them. If he says anything about seeing the glass works, pay no attention. There are better ways of getting there which we will come to later. Some of the more important buildings along the Grand Canal are listed here:

Dogana di Mare, on your left. This is the principal custom-house, built in 1676–82. Gold ball and statue of Fortuna on the top.

Santa Maria della Salute. (Left) The dome of this 17th century church is one of the most conspicuous features of Venice. Church built as an expression of thanks for the end of the plague of 1630.

Accademia di Belle Arti (Academy of Fine Arts) at the left end of the first bridge you come to. Art gallery containing over

800 pictures, chiefly by Venetian masters. Bellini. Carpaccio, Titian, Tintoretto, Veronese. Worth a separate visit.

Palazzo Rezzònico. Just past the third side canal on your left from the bridge. Here Robert Browning died in 1889.

Palazzo Sernagiotto. Two palaces up, on the left. Richard Wagner composed the second act of "Tristan and Isolde" here in 1858–59.

Palazzi Mocenigo. Between the sharp bend to the east in the canal, and the first side canal on your right. In one of these Lord Byron began his epic poem *Don Juan* in 1818.

Palazzo Corner-Spinelli. On your side of the next canal to the right. Byron lived here often when in Venice.

Ponte di Rialto. Famous marble bridge lined with shops, built in 1588–92. Until 1854 the only bridge across the Grand Canal.

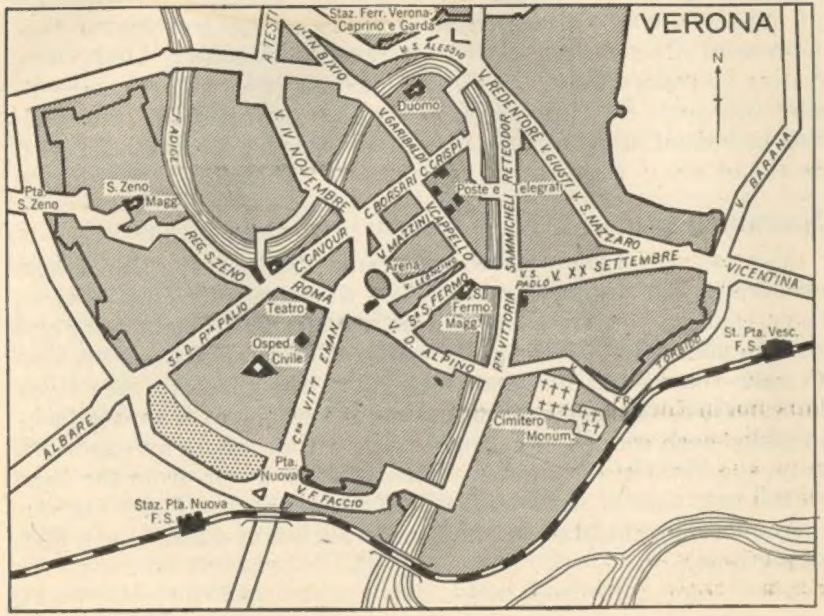
Cà d'Oro (the Golden House). On the right just before you get to the *Rio di San Felice*. The most typically Venetian and the most elegant Gothic palace in the city. Built in 1421–36.

Palazzo Véndramin-Calergi. On the right. One of the finest palaces in Venice, begun in 1481. Wagner died here in 1883.

This is just a once-over-lightly. All the buildings and palaces are several centuries old and most have interesting legends connected with them. All of the following Venetian churches are of interest: San Giobbe, San Giuliano, San Salvatore, San Giovanni Crisòstomo, Santi Apostoli, Madonna Dell'Orto, Santa Caterina, Santa Maria de Gesuiti (particularly magnificent interior), San Zaccaria, Santi Giovanni e Paólo (funerals and burials of many of the Doges took place here. Crowded with works of art.) San Pietro di Castello. There are dozens more.

Spreading Out.

You can spend years prowling around Venice and still not take everything in, so don't be too easily discouraged. One of these days, though, you are going to feel like a swim or something else to take your mind off the great works of art and architecture and to take the weight off your feet. Just the place to ease those bunions is the Lido. Before the war it was one of the most fashionable beach resorts in Europe. You can get there by *vaporetto* from the Molo in 15 minutes. Then it's just a step from the dock to the east side of the island where the beach is. There are numerous restaurants, hotels, and boardwalk honky-tonks, and a fine, sandy beach.



VERONA

You probably know the city of VERONA from reading Shakespeare's *Two Gentlemen of Verona* and his *Romeo and Juliet*. It was in Verona that the "star-crossed" lovers lived and died. The Montagues and the Capulets were real people of Verona, although they went under the names of Montecchi and Capuletti. The enmity of their families arose because they were on opposite sides in the struggle for power then going on between the Emperor and the Pope.

Verona has always been an important city because it guards the southern gate to the Brenner Pass, that strategic passageway through the Alps. The main rail line between Italy and Germany runs north through the Brenner Pass, and there is an east-west route through the town which links the industrial centers of Piedmont and Lombardy with Venice, which is 70 miles to the East, and with Trieste.

Verona has been fortified since the days of the Romans. The city is situated on both banks of an S-shaped loop of the ADIGE RIVER. Great dikes and walls hold back the waters of the Adige,

which, in earlier days, used to flood the lower parts of the town. According to a legend, the waters of the Adige rose to the level of the windows of the CHURCH OF SAN ZENO in the year 589. But, through a miracle, the waters "restrained themselves" and did not go into the church, although its doors were wide open.

Early in the fifth century, Verona was threatened by the hordes of barbarians who were sweeping over Europe. That invasion was averted, but in 452, Attila, the Hun, overran every city of Venetia, and Verona became a barbarian fortress.

Verona is second only to Venice in the interest and beauty of its medieval and Renaissance monuments. Its Roman remains are better than those of any other town or city in northern Italy. Among the best-preserved of these Roman relics is the amphitheatre, which is known as the ARENA. It was built in the year 290, under Diocletian. It held 25,000 spectators who saw the battles of the gladiators and the fights between wild animals, and between slaves and animals, such as were also held in the Colosseum in Rome. As recently as last year an annual week of outdoor opera was given in the Arena. According to a story told in Verona, the Italian poet Dante got his idea of the shape of the Inferno when

he stood at the top of the Arena and looked down on its concentric circles of seats.

Dante stayed at Verona during the reign of the Scaliger family, which ran from 1260 to the year 1387. Dante was at that time a refugee from Florence, from which city he had been banished. He was only one of the many refugees whom the Scaligers harbored. They welcomed poets, artists, scholars, preachers, and soldiers from among the many persons who, for varying reasons, had been exiled from their native cities. It was under the Scaligers that Verona reached its peak of magnificence. The churches, palaces, and other buildings of the city are literally covered with the works of such artists as Paole Cagliari, who was known as *Il Veronese*, Badile, de Zevio, and many others.

In addition to the splendid paintings and architecture to be seen in Verona, there are other famous sights which have drawn tourists to the town for many years. One of the most important centers of Veronese life is the PIAZZA ERBE, which is the market square. It's a colorful place on the site of a Roman Forum. Peddlers used to stand in the market place under huge umbrellas, and the square was always crowded with Italian women carrying their market baskets. In the square is a fountain with an antique

statue and a column dating from the Roman era. Another column in the square is surmounted by the figure of a lion, which was put there in the late nineteenth century. An earlier figure of a lion was destroyed as a form of punishment to the people of Verona.

Just outside the town are the GIUSTI GARDENS, on a hill from which the city can be seen. From that point there are wide views of the Alps to the north, and to south, the Po River plain with its mulberry trees, vines, and corn. There are three railroad stations in Verona, or, rather, there were three before the Allies bombed the town. A street-car line ran from the PORTA VESCOVO to the PIAZZA ERBE and the PIAZZA VITTORIO EMANUELE, and from the Piazza Erbe through the Piazza Bra, to the NUOVO STATION. There were also electric streetcars which ran into the territory surrounding the town. Tourists who visited the town before the war were advised to visit the Piazza Erbe, the market pace, in the morning in order to see it at its best. Most of the best restaurants and eating places were in the PIAZZA BRA. There were also good restaurants in the hotels of the town.

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